



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

(Corrected at 6:54 PM EST -- The previous release indicated that the TV show Moonshines airs on the History Channel. It airs on the Discovery Channel.)

Excise Officers Find Illegal Distilling Operation

AUSTIN, Ind. (Jan. 19) – Indiana State Excise Police officers cited a southern Indiana man this afternoon on charges related to distilling liquor without a permit.

Excise officers issued three summonses to Billy J. Morris, 52, of Austin, Ind., this afternoon. Morris faces preliminary charges of Possession of Unlicensed Equipment for production of alcoholic beverages, Non-Permittees Unauthorized Dealings and Sale of Untaxed Alcoholic Beverages. Officers also seized a still and other items used to manufacture liquor.

Morris will appear in Scott County Superior Court.

“It appears the popularity of producing alcohol has increased since the process was shown on the Discovery Channel show Moonshiners,” Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. “Alcohol produced for human consumption is a very precise process, and if it is not produced properly, it results in wood alcohol which, if consumed, can result in a serious health risks or death. State Excise officers will continue to investigate the illegal production of alcohol, so the health and well-being of Indiana citizens is ensured.”

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana’s Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.